

on which they make to the Brig & Maj Gens their Annual reports: this duty has been neglected for two years & I believe that this neglect is the prime reason why Commandants of Regiments have neglected to make reports & full reports to diferant officers as required by Act of Assembly. The officer in the militia is troublesome. A part of the officers doing their duty & complaining to their Superiors because the others neglect theirs. I have been conversed with & written so often upon these questions that I was actuated to write you. I would have written more upon these as well as other points, but knowing it is near the time for the Adjournment & knowing that all public officers become weared & fatigued about the winding up of the session & like to take som recreation; I close.

David S. Reid to John W. Ellis.

G.P.

Washington City, D.C.
February 12, 1859.

This morning I received a letter from the Senator from Rockingham, Mr. Boyd¹⁹ urging me to accept an appointment in the Commission to run the Boundary line between the states of North Carolina and Virginia. I have just answered that letter, and perhaps it is due alike to you and myself that I should state to you also the communication I made to him. It was as follows:—

I to-day received your letter of the 9 instant, informing me that Governor Ellis had expressed a desire to associate me in the Commission to run the Boundary line between North Carolina and Virginia, and you add your own request that I should accept the appointment.

Honor and profit have never had much influence with me in determining upon the acceptance of public station. A sense of duty has always governed me. The place you mention is sufficiently honorable and remunerative.

I may moreover add that there is no personal or political consideration to forbid my acceptance of an appointment under the present Executive of our state, but upon the contrary I would, under ordinary circumstances, make any reasonable sacrifice to accomodate his wishes, or to promote the success of his administration which I expect most cordially to support.—There is therefore no reason to refuse acceptance on these grounds.

I am however compelled to decline the appointment for reasons which are at least satisfactory to my own mind. One of these is the fact that my

¹⁹George D. Boyd (1797-1886), planter; member of the House of Commons from Rockingham County, 1840; member of the State Senate, 1842-1846, 1852-1858. Ashe, *Biographical History*, VII, 45-48.